
On Modeling the Tactical Planning of Oil Pipeline Networks

Daniel Felix Ferber

PETROBRAS

ICAPS 2012

Introduction

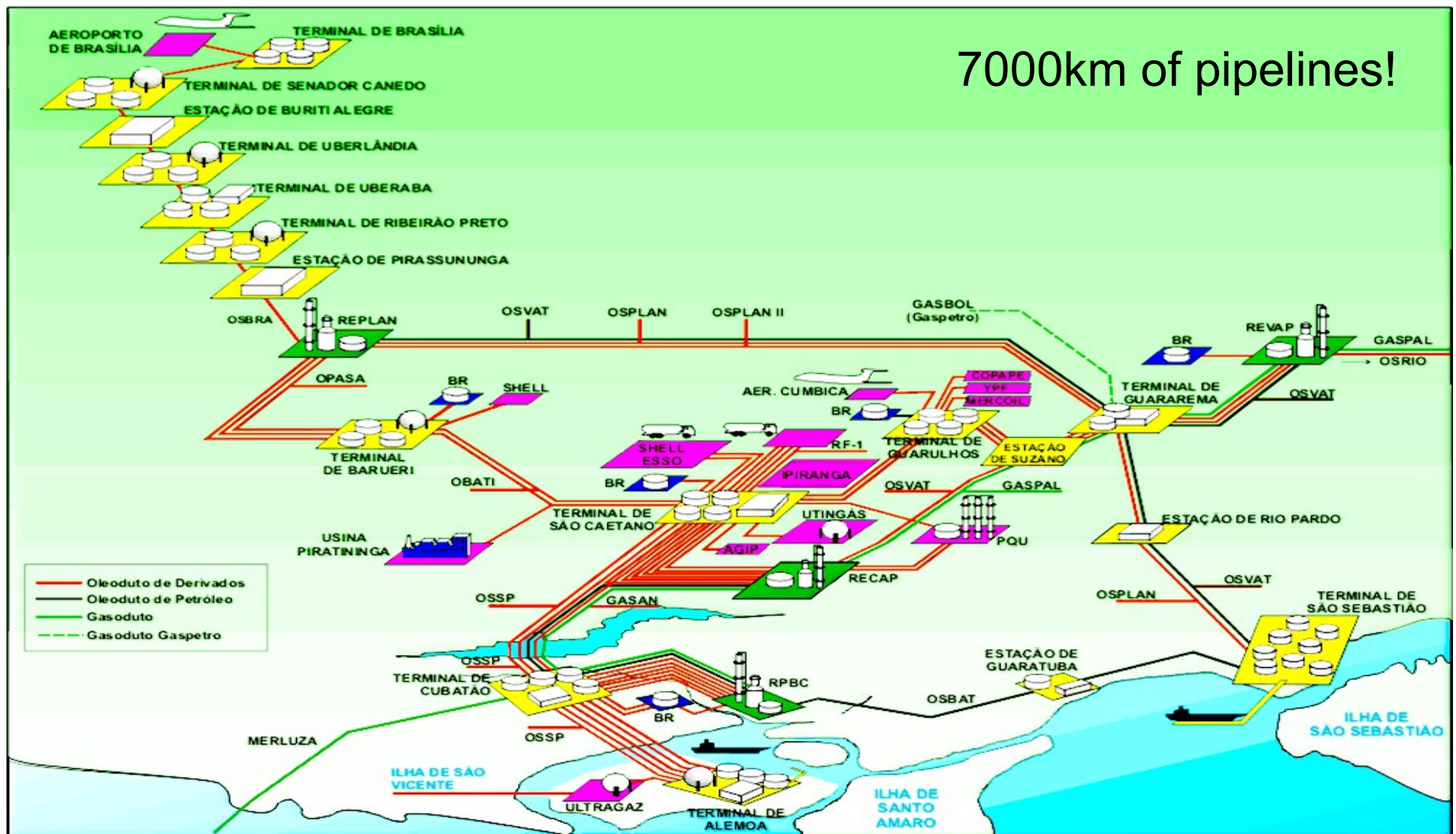
The **supply chain** at Petrobras:

- Pipeline Networks
- Oil refined commodities
- Multi-commodity
- Multi-period



Motivation

7000km of pipelines!



Motivation

Our main goal:

- Assure minimal inventory levels at consumer facilities.

Decisions:

- Amount
- Timeframe
- Path
- Flow rate

The pipeline network plan:

- A description of flow among nodes.
- Ignores operational details: not yet a schedule.

Motivation

Current solution:

- Classic network flow model.
- Solution requires many “fixes”:

Inventory on pipelines,
average flow capacity,
etc.



Not a realistic flow description!

Motivation



Some desired **aspects**:

- Inventory of pipelines (*in-transit inventory*)
- Transit time
- Flow capacity
- Flow reversal

Incorporate scheduling aspects into the plan!

Motivation

A linear programming approach:

Well-known and proven solution

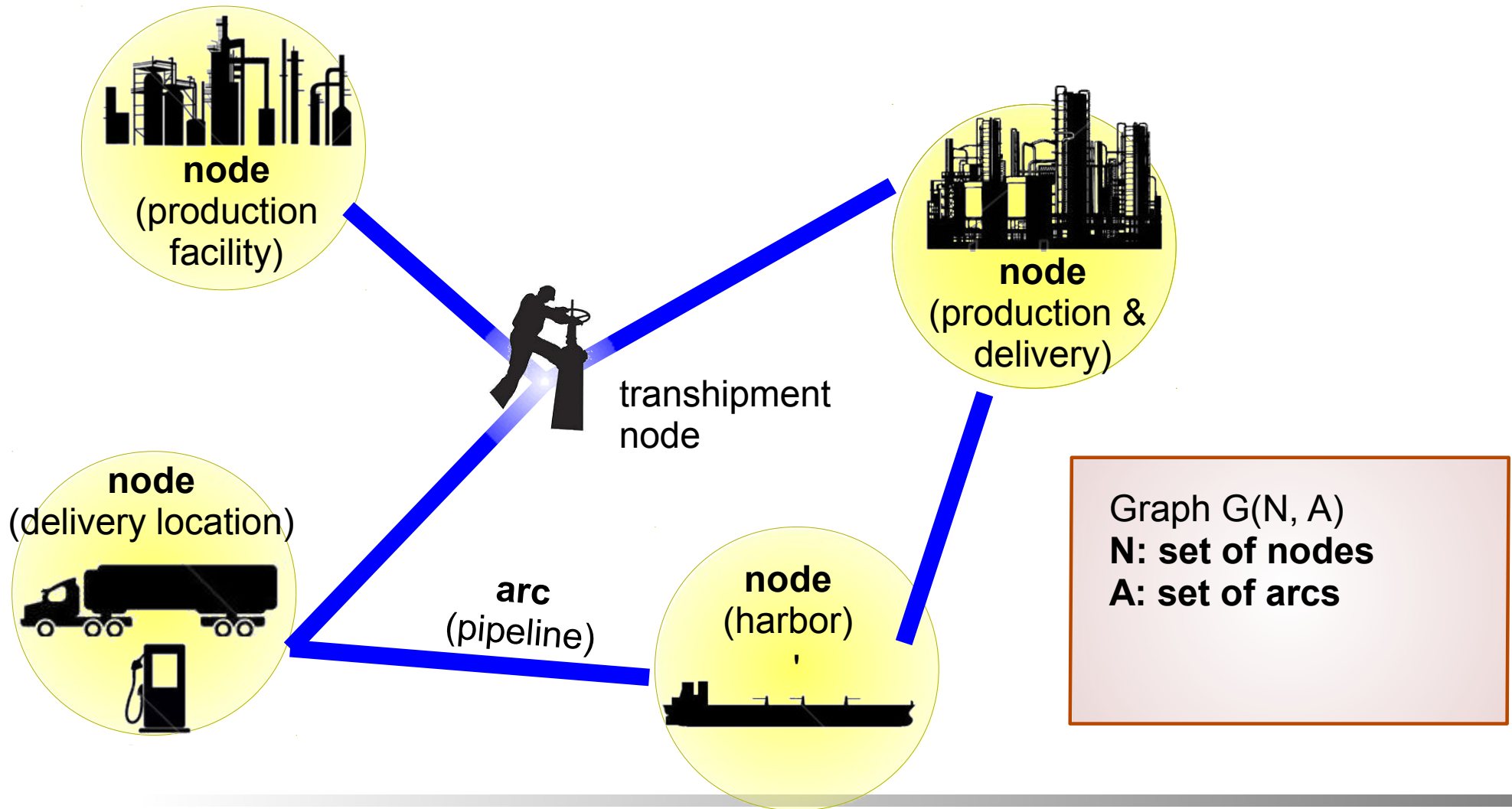
- **Challenge: NO integer variables!**
 - Fast execution
 - Large topologies



Suited for tactical planning.

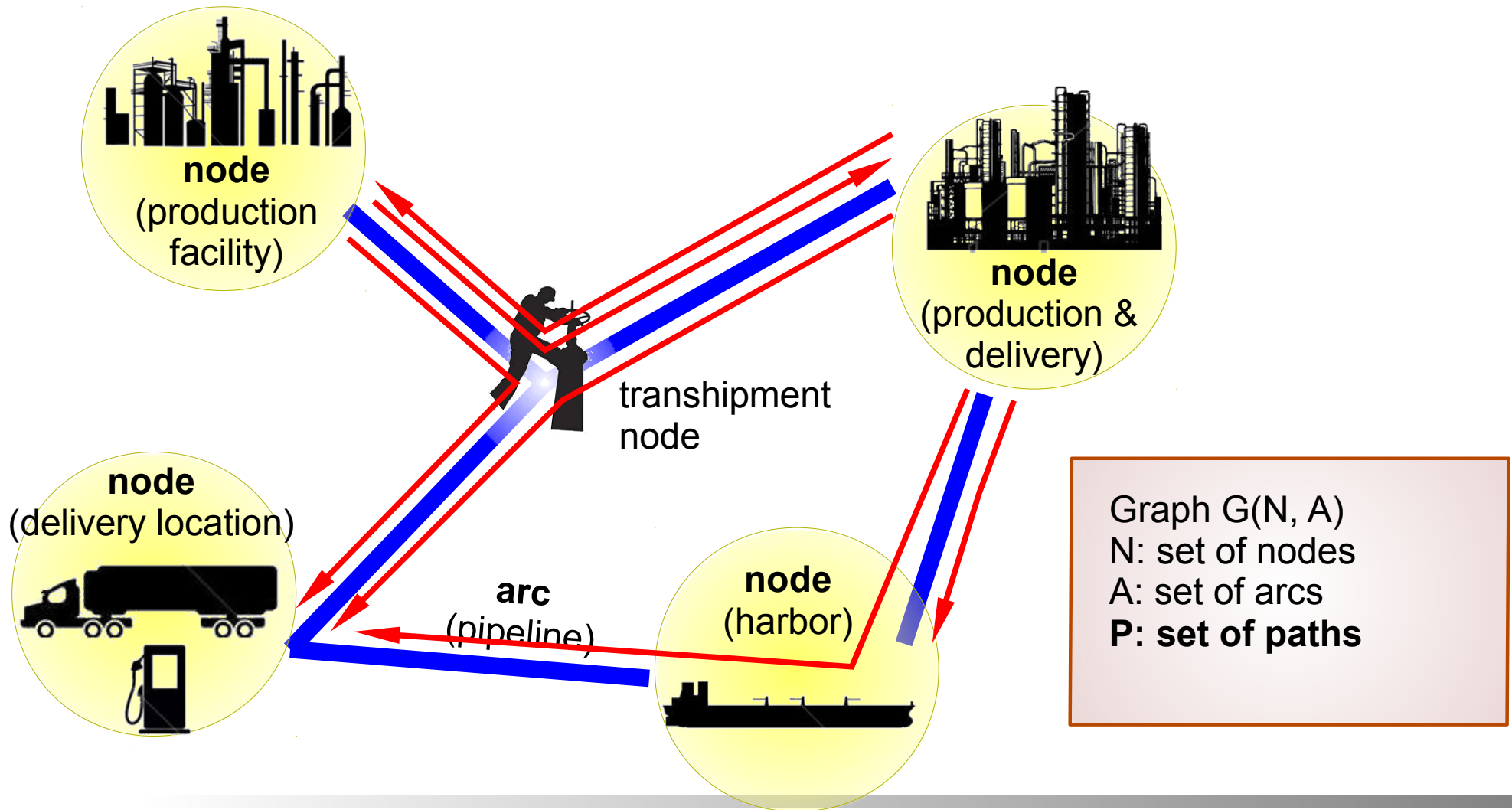
The Pipeline Operation

Pipeline network: a graph of '*arcs*' and '*nodes*'



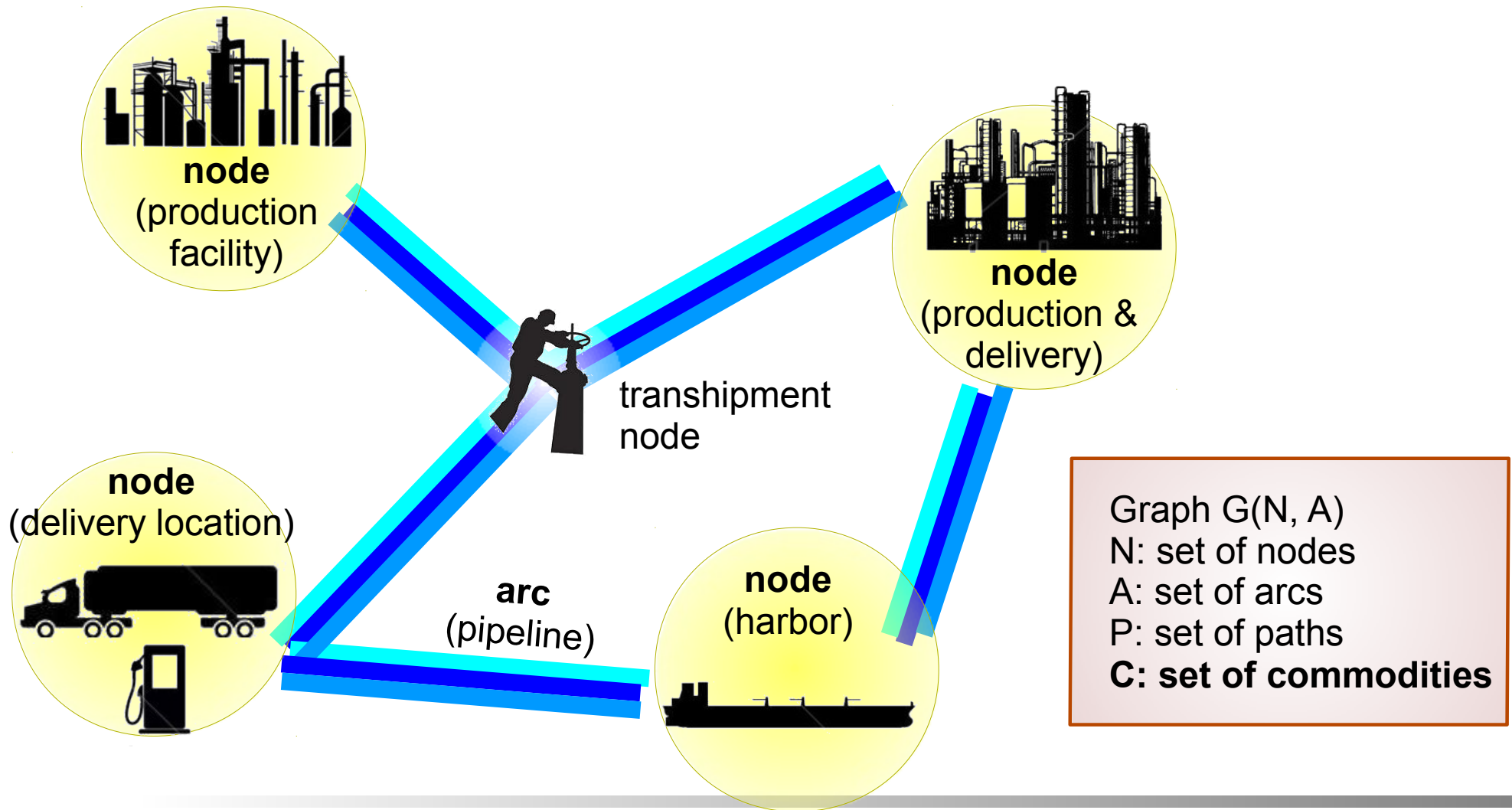
The Pipeline Operation

Flow constraints: enumeration of '*paths*'



The Pipeline Operation

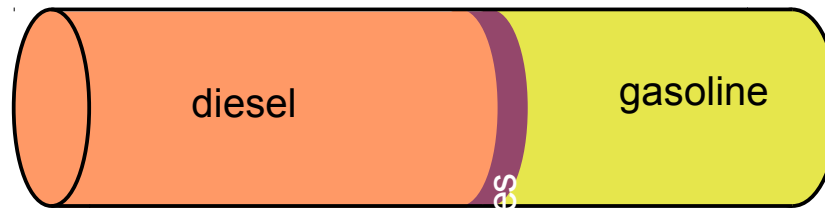
Layers of '*commodities*':



The Pipeline Operation

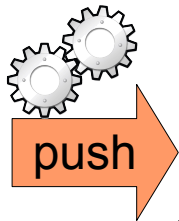
'In-transit inventory' on pipelines

In-transit Inventory:

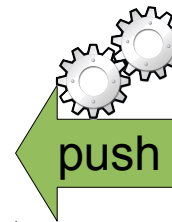
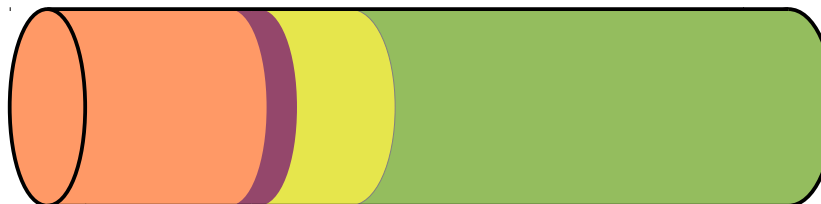


(always completely filled!)

Push & Delivery:



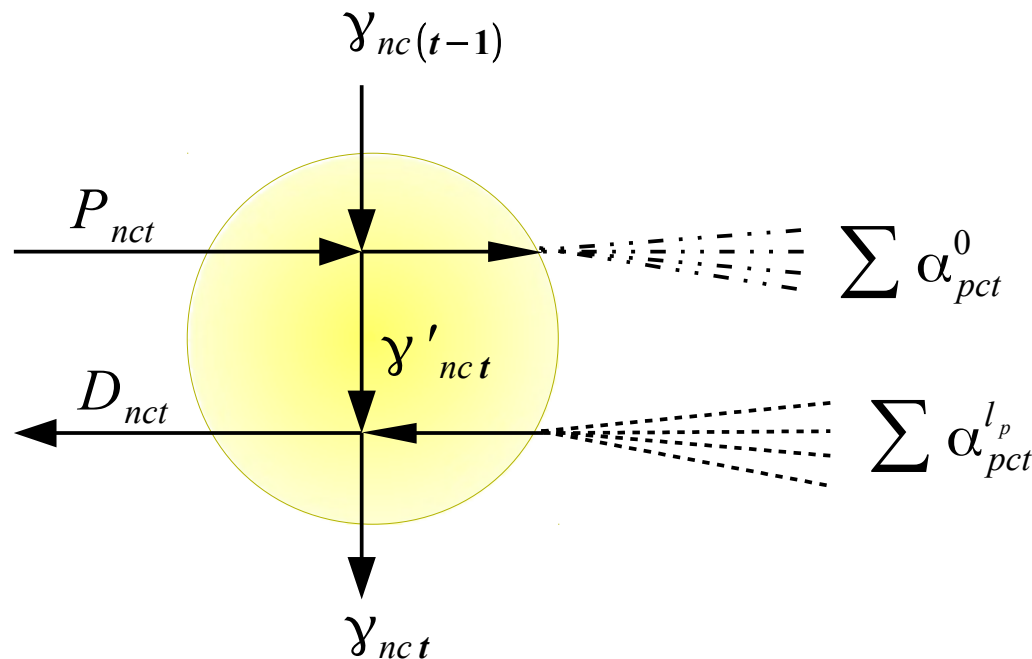
Flow Reversal:



Problem Formulation

Node: inbound and outbound paths

$$\forall n \in N, c \in C, t \in T$$



Parameters:

γ_{nc0}	Node inventory
P_{nct}	Production
D_{nct}	Demand

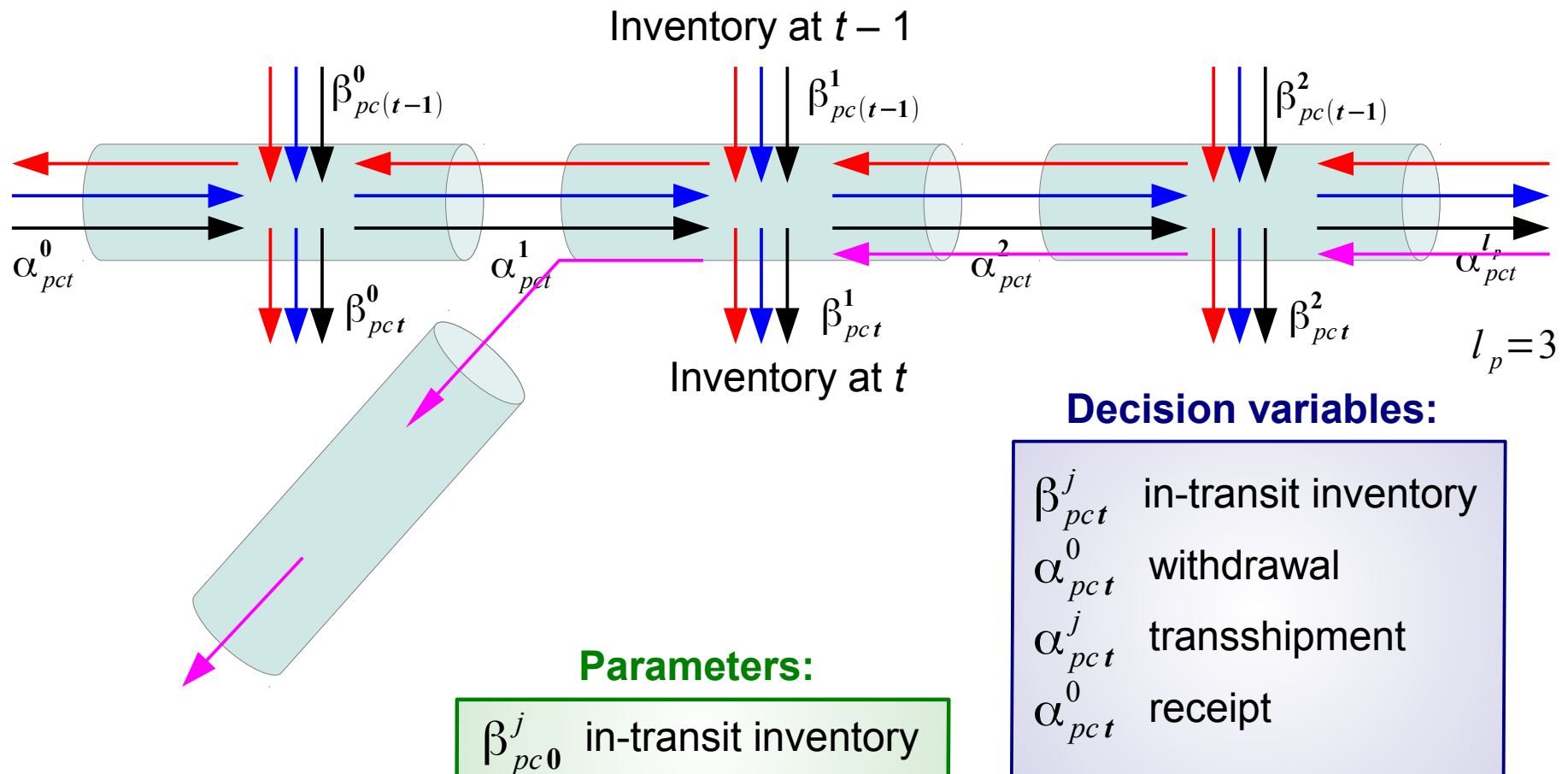
Decision variables:

$\gamma_{nc}t$	Node inventory
γ'_{nct}	

Problem Formulation

Paths: sequence of among facilities and terminals

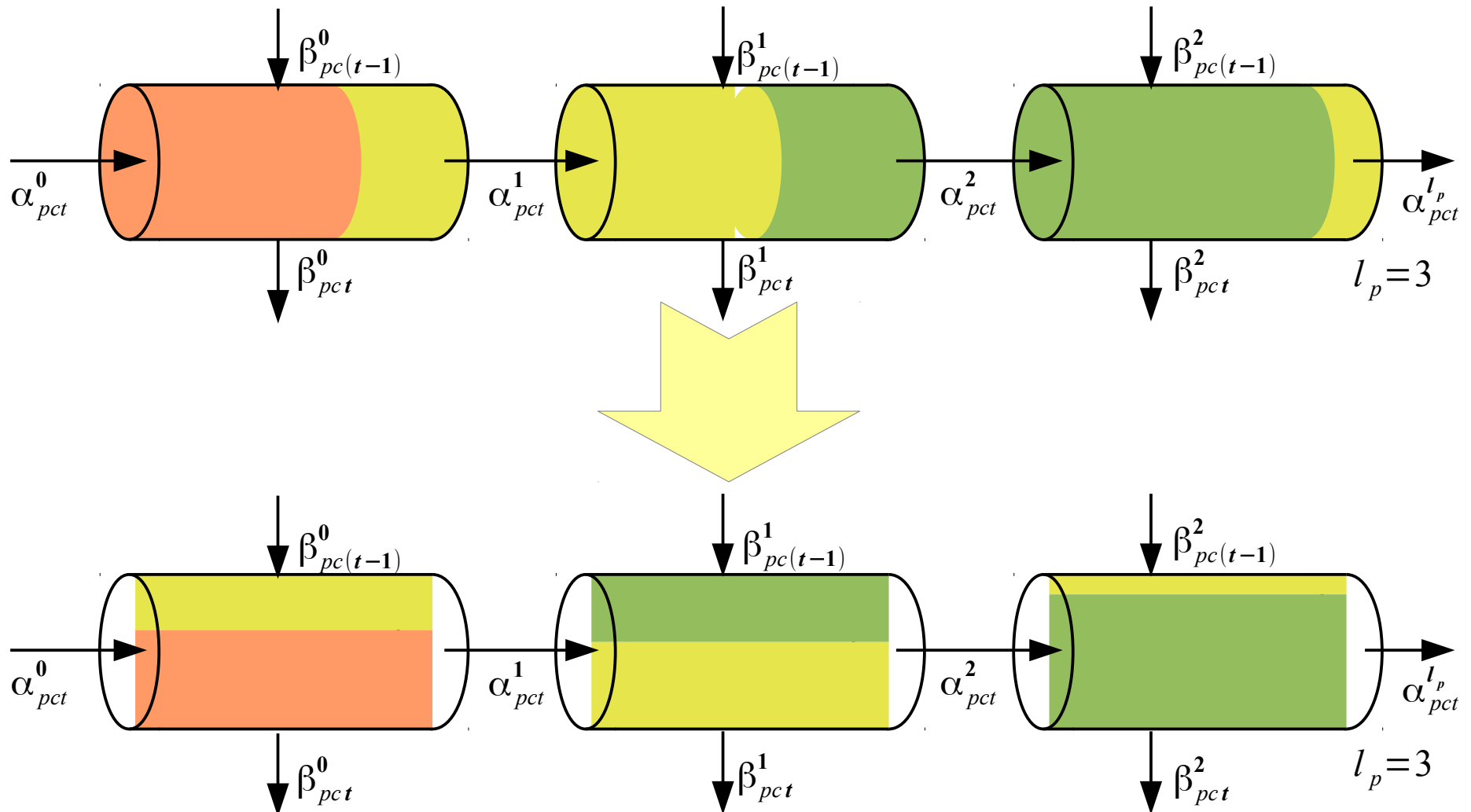
$$\forall p \in P, c \in C, t \in T, j \in \{1 \dots l_p - 1\}$$



Problem Formulation

The 'arc inventory relaxation':

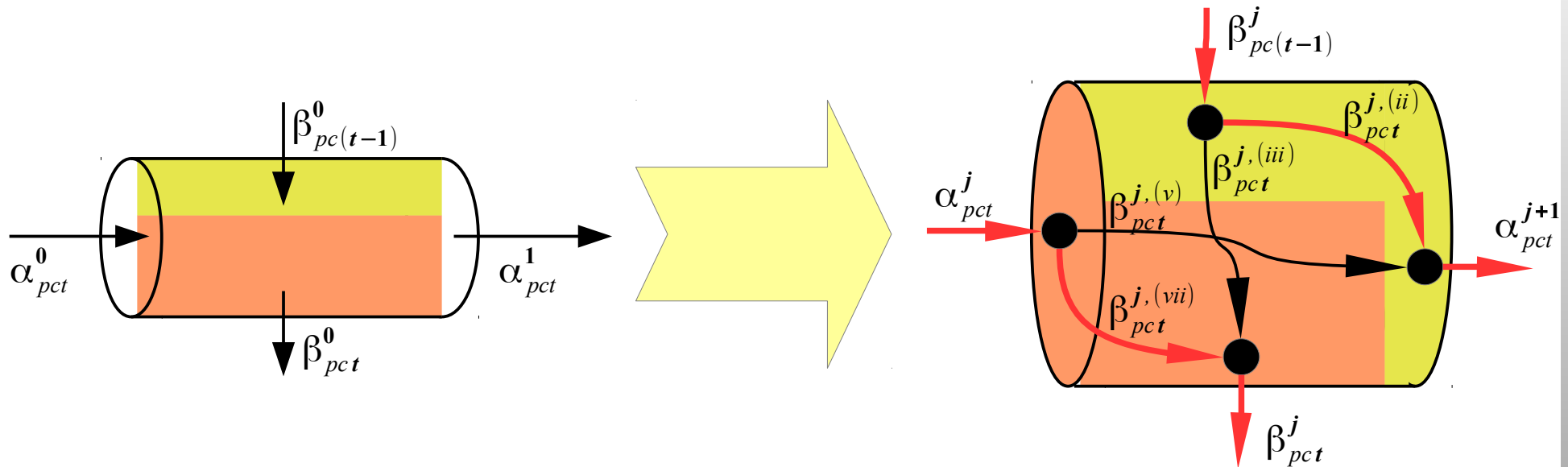
$$\forall p \in P, c \in C, t \in T, j \in \{1 \dots l_p - 1\}$$



Problem Formulation

The '*arc inventory relaxation*' revealed:

$$\forall p \in P, c \in C, t \in T, j \in \{1 \dots l_p - 1\}$$

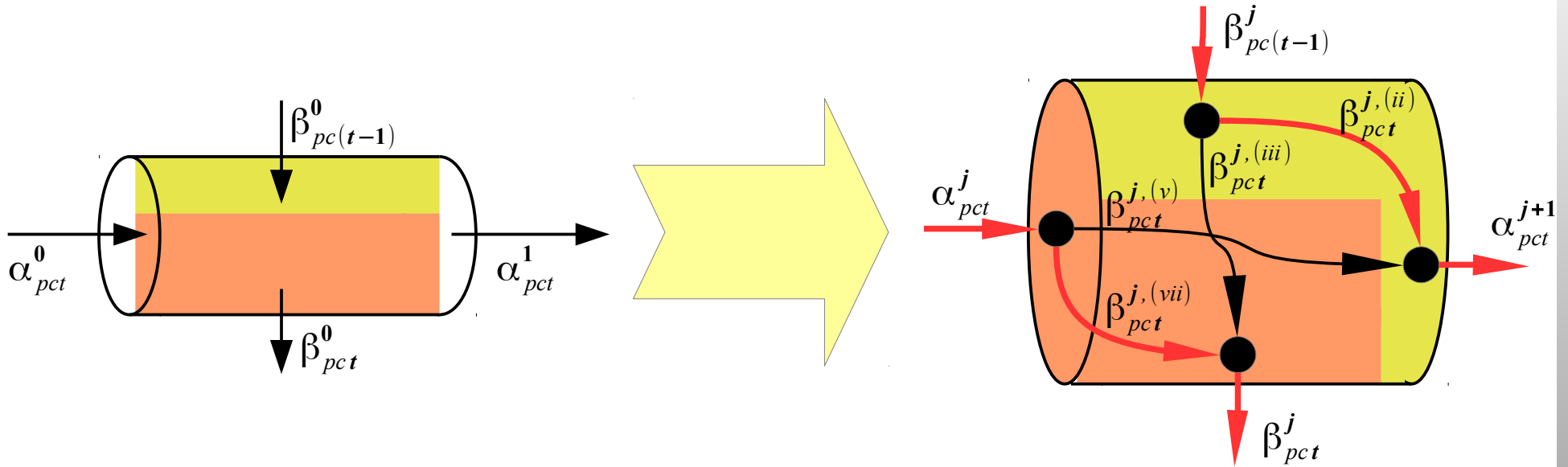


- First deliver current inventory.
- Only then transport the entering commodity.
- Keep part of the entering commodity as next inventory.

Problem Formulation

The '*arc inventory relaxation*' revealed:

$$\forall p \in P, c \in C, t \in T, j \in \{1 \dots l_p - 1\}$$

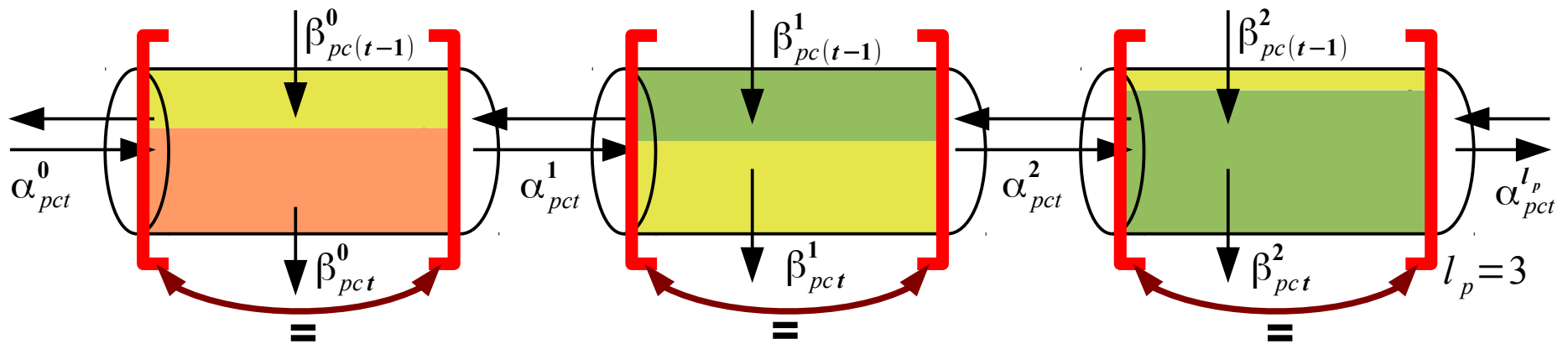


$$\min \sum_{p \in P, c \in C, t \in T} \mathcal{E}_{opc}(\alpha_{pct}^0) + \sum_{\substack{p \in P, c \in C, t \in T \\ j \in [1..l_p - 1]}} (\rho_\alpha \alpha_{pct}^j + \rho_\beta \beta_{pct}^{j,(iii)})$$

Problem Formulation

The '*arc flow relaxation*':

$$\forall a \in A, t \in T$$



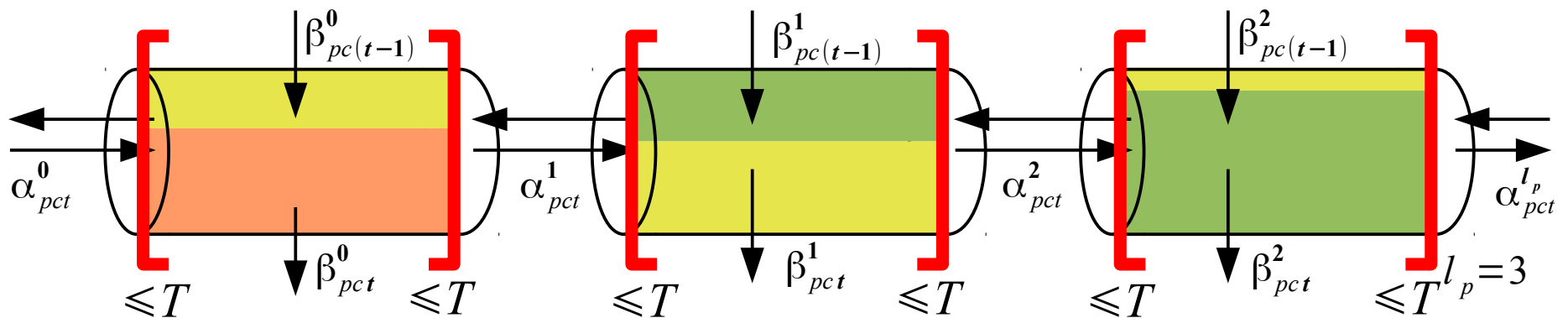
Each Arc

Total inbound amount
=
Total outbound amount

Problem Formulation

The '*arc flow relaxation*' in action!

$$\forall a \in A, t \in T$$



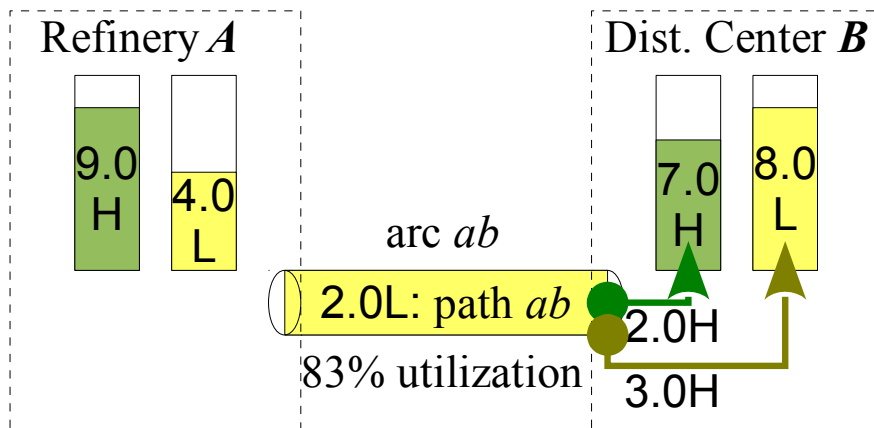
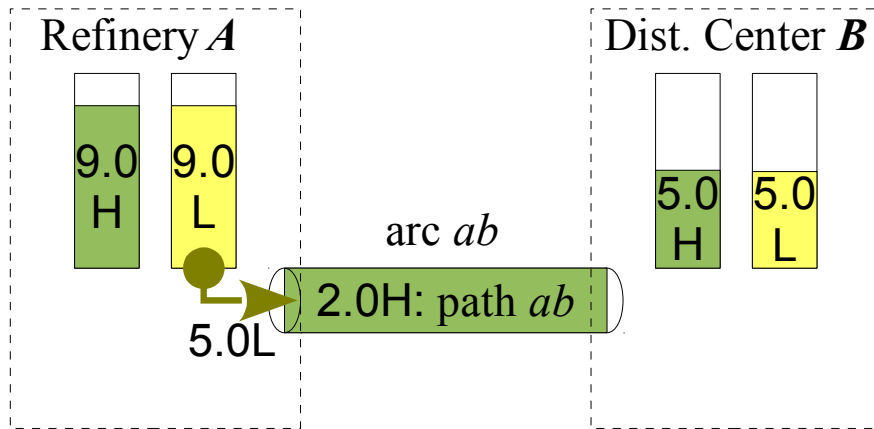
Each Arc End

Total time fits into the time slot

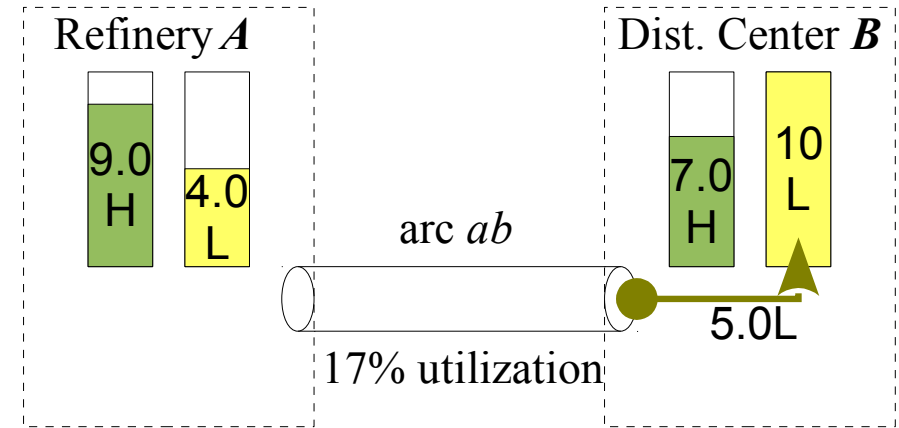
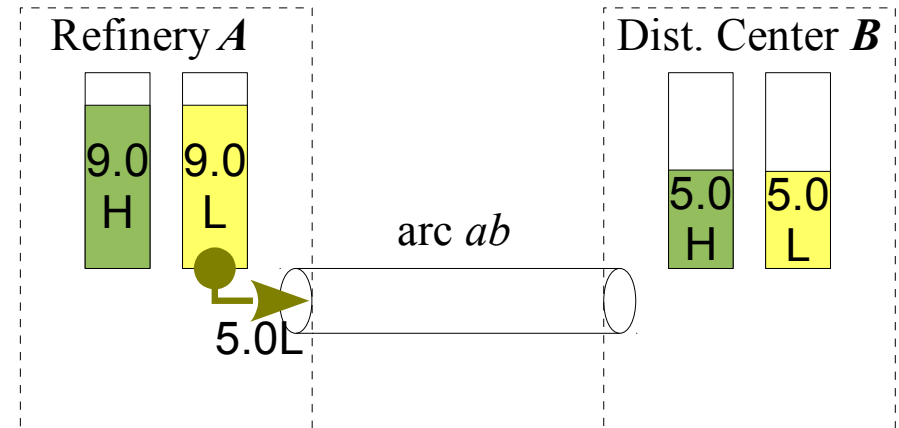
$$\sum \alpha_{pct}^j \leq T_t$$

Example

Arc & Inventory Relaxation Model:



Classic Network Flow Model:



Experiments

Typical instance:

- 75 classes of commodities,
- 25 nodes,
- 45 arcs
- 2 months planning horizon

Time Slices	Variables	Constraints	Execution Time
2	100,000	50,000	1 min
8	300,000	200,000	10 min

Conclusion

Network Flow Linear Programming:

- In-transit inventory
- Transit time
- Arc flow capacity
- Arc flow reversal

Benefits:

- More accurate flow and utilization rates
- Closer approximation to reality.

Challenge achieved:

No integer variables for a better pipeline network model!